



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

Janice Stopak, Rural Development Specialist Lincoln, Nebraska (402) 423-9683
Marilyn Schmidt, Village Clerk Liberty, Nebraska (402) 696-4453

LIBERTY RECEIVES NEW SIREN VIA USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Lincoln, Neb., August 29, 2003--The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded this month, \$13,800 in grant funds to the Village of Liberty. These monies leveraged with \$4,665 from the Gage County Emergency Management Center will purchase a new emergency siren that will benefit 86 rural residents.

"The new siren is a wonderful addition to our Village as our old siren is old and no longer dependable," stated Darrell Thomas, village chairperson for Liberty. "Residents of Liberty will have a greater feeling of protection in adverse weather conditions thanks to the new emergency siren."

Liberty's existing siren will be replaced by a \$18,465 warning system allowing the Village to join the countywide system being developed by the Gage County Emergency Management Center located in Beatrice. The countywide system will improve the timeliness of advanced warnings, proper maintenance and testing as it will give the Gage County Emergency Management Center the ability to control the individual communities' systems as well as each community access to control their own local system.

"It was a pleasure working with the Village on this project," stated Janice Stopak, rural development specialist for Nebraska USDA Rural Development. "Use of the grant funds to help rural communities such as Liberty with developing or updating essential public community facilities is the purpose of the Community Facilities Grant program."

USDA Rural Development funds were provided through the Community Facilities Grant program. For additional information contact Janice Stopak at 6030 S. 58th St. Suite B, Lincoln, Neb. 68516 or phone (402) 423-9683, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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